Causes of industrial sickness

745. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has recently been made by the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi about the causes of industrial sickness in the country;

(b) if so, to what extent, according to them, the causes like 'Management Failur' and 'Financial Structure' are responsible for sickness in industries;

(c) according to ISI what is the exact definition of 'Management Failure' and 'Financial Structure' in the context of industrial sickness;

(d) whether the report has suggested any remedies; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the studies conducted by Indian Statistical Institute, industrial sickness arises out of bad financial structure and/or chronically inefficient use of factors of production and/or poor market positioning. According to them the major difference between sick firms registered with the BIFR and healthy companies lay in interest cost and wage cost. BIFR companies always had higher debt equity and total liability equity ratios compared to the non BIFR firms.

(d) and (e) The study has suggested the need for creating an information base that deals with the credit worthiness of large borrowers in both their corporate and individual capacities, shifting responsibilities of industrial and corporate organisation from secured creditors to the defaulting debtor firms and BIFR becoming a fast track facilitator and occasional arbitrator for disposal of the cases referred to it. The study has also suggested financial restructuring of companies such as converting debt into equity and corporate reorganisation via land sales.

Access of Aliens to Sensitive Gold Mines in Uttar Pradesh

746. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the reports that aliens are getting access to sensitive gold mines in Uttar Pradesh as reported in the Pioneer dated the 2nd December, 1995;

(b) if so, the authority who had given this permission and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to prevent their entry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Directorate of Geology and Mining, Uttar Pradesh have stated that they are carrying out a regional survey for assessment of minerals in Pauri and Almora district. No gold mines exsist in the area nor has any existence of commercially economic gold deposits been reported there.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Children working in Glass Industry of Firozabad

747. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children working in glass industry of Firozabad and other parts of country have been affected by Tuberculosis;

(b) if so, action taken by Government against those glass manufacturers who have engaged child labour along with measures initiated by Government to rehabilitate these children;

(c) whether any meeting has been convened by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in this regard; and

(d) if so, the recommendations of NHRC and steps taken by Government to emplement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The phenomenon of children working in the glass industry is most widely prevalent in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh. According to the information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the child labour engaged in various manufacturing processes in the glass industry in Firozabad district are reported to be prone to T.B. The Uttar Pradesh Government have launched rigorous enforcement drives under various labour laws and prosecutions have been launched against defaulting employers. Under National Child Labour Projects Scheme of Government of India special schools have been set up where children withdrawn from work in the glass industry are given primary level education and are provided with nutrition, health care, and monthly stipends. Intensive publicity campaigns have been launched to sensitize people against the practice of child labour and efforts are underway to extend benefits under various developmental and poverty alleviation programmes to the families of child workers with a view to rehabilitating them. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has convened meetings to review the progress of rehabilitatory measures. The major recommendations of (NHRC) in the various meetings on the subject pertained to undertaking survey in the district with a view to identifing the child labour and also to obtain information relating to socio-economic levels of their families, stepping up of enforcement of labour laws, enrolment of child labour in special schools and also informal and non-formal education centres, technology upgradation, and also to provide economic benefits to child labour families. A comprehensive survey of affected families has already been conducted in the district by U.P.—BBSCO. I.I.T., Kanpur has been sanctioned a two-year programme for the upgradation of technology and work in the glass industry. Work has already started on the project. Forty special schools have been set up with enrolment of 3,260 child labour as at present; 140 prosecutions have been launched during first six months of the current year. It has been reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh that a large number of affected families have been provided financial assistance under various developmental programmes of the Government.

Standing Committee on Unorganised Rural Labour

748. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several years back a Central Standing Committee on unorganised rural labour used to function at the national level;

(b) whether this Standing Committee used to advise Centre on various problems of the rural labour;

(c) whether it is also a fact that after some years the Standing Committee was discontinued;

(d) whether there is any proposal to revive the Standing Committee on unorganised rural labour; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) With the setting up of the Sub-committee of the Standing Labour Committee on unorganised labour in 1987, it was decided to merge the work of the Central Standing Committee with the Sub-Committee of the Standing Labour Committee and to discontinue the